

**IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT(S): Michael C. Stewart, et al.
APPLICATION NO.: 10/054,477
FILING DATE: January 18, 2002
TITLE: Vessel Harvesting Apparatus and Method
EXAMINER: Matthew John Kasztejna
GROUP ART UNIT: 3739
ATTY. DKT. NO.: 80121-05730

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**AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION
UNDER 37 CFR § 1.114**

Sir:

Responsive to the final Office Action dated June 15, 2006 received in the patent application identified above, Applicants request continued examination of the claims as amended herein.